

THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

- MAGAZINE -

SPRING IN THE NEARBY COUNTRY, MERAMEC HIGHLANDS.



RARE VISTA
TO BE FOUND
ONLY IN THE
EARLY SPRING
TEN MILES WEST OF
ST. LOUIS.



A FAVORITE RESORT
FOR BASS FISHERMEN.



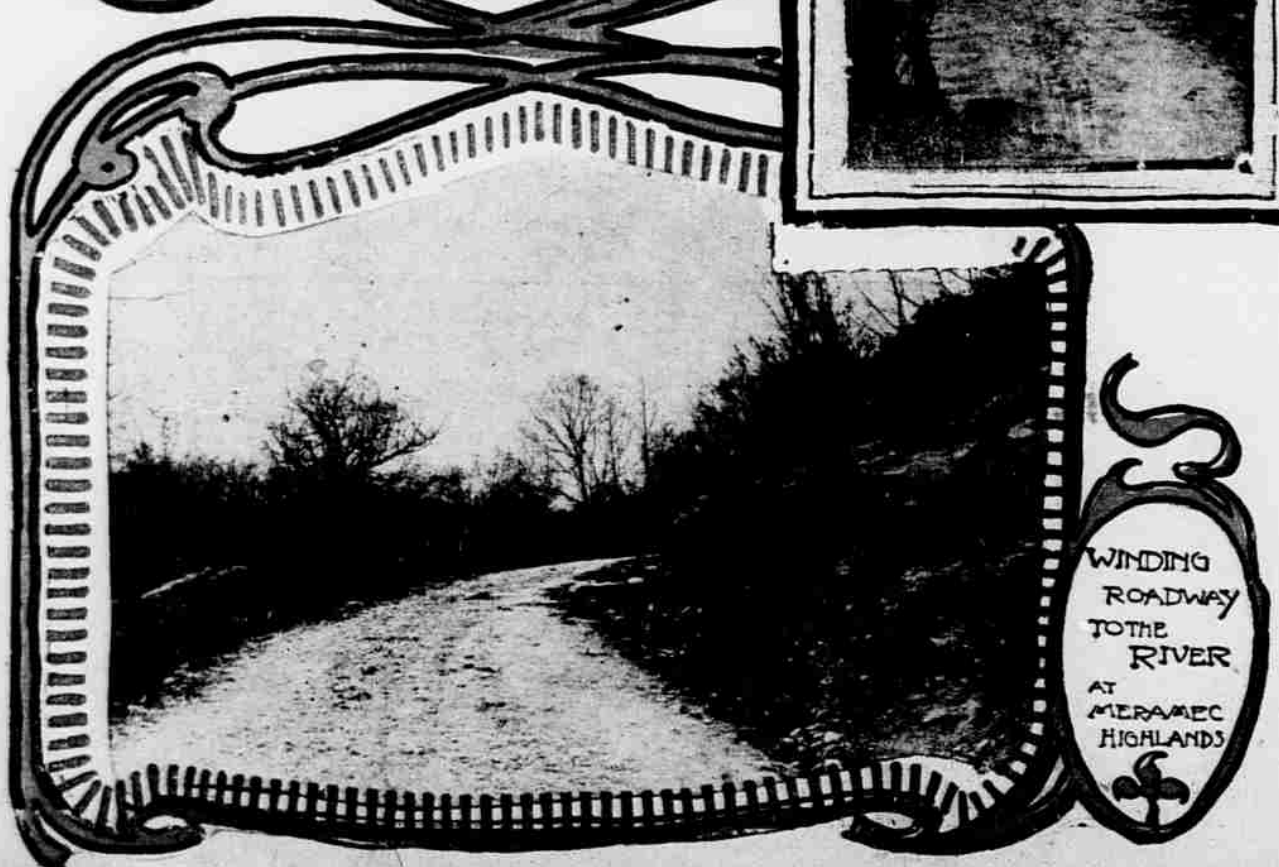
A LOVER'S
LANE
AT
MERAMEC
HIGHLANDS



WINTER
IN THE LAP
OF SPRING
NEAR
MARSHALL
STATION



WINDING
ROADWAY
TO THE
RIVER
AT
MERAMEC
HIGHLANDS



WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

A LONG the winding Meramec these sunny days the nature-lover revels, the sportsman sates himself with the pleasures of pursuit and the fabled worker drinks in new life from foliage-filtered air.

From its source at James Spring, in Taney County, to where it empties into the Mississippi, twelve miles below St. Louis, there is not a commonplace stretch along the banks of the swiftly moving river at this season.

Thousands of St. Louisans love the stream as the Londoner loves his Thames or the up-country Englishman his Mersey. It has its jolly watermen, its boating parties, its fussy little steam launches, and, better than all, it has funny treasures galore. Whose casts may catch.

Most of those who know the Meramec became acquainted with it at the Highlands, most popular of all resorts about St. Louis with seekers after holiday diversion in the country. Here the scenery is more majestic than at any other point on the river, except at the headwaters, which are not as well known as they might be.

Looking southward from the Frisco station at Meramec Highlands, the travel-stained Easterner looks upon a vista that carries him back in fancy to the rugged mountain ranges of West Virginia. If he cares to approach closer to the blue waters which he sees snaking through the valley, he may stretch his fancy a little farther and find in the gleaming white road winding down to the river's trim a replica of the Appian Way, which leads tourists to the delights of Italy.

In the by-paths skirting this road the camera is always busy. There are beautiful "shots" without end through all the pictorial range, from gnarled tree trunks to tumbling waterfalls, from the delicate tracery of the willow to the majestic sweep of the sky-line. Just now the scenery of the Meramec is at its best from the standpoint of the camera artist. The foliage is not too dense, as it will be a month from now, to give the best effects of light and shade and detail.

Meramec Highlands is by no means the only attractive spot along this ever-interesting river. Its banks from mouth to source are dotted with elegantly appointed clubhouses, where select coteries of anglers spend their spare hours, and where the veriest outsider needs no password except goodfellowship and a lively appreciation of sylvan hospitality. At Blue Springs, Marshall, Elm Springs and in the neighborhood of St. James the fisherman has only his lack of skill to blame if his stringing needle becomes rusty.

The fishing possibilities, starting at the Mississippi with mud cat, work up through schools of channel cat, sunfish, jack salmon, perch, crappie and bass to rainbow trout at the headwaters.

The Entomann Botanical Club of St. Louis has disclosed a new attraction of the Meramec Valley to scientists. On any bright day acres of enthusiastic lovers of flowers may be found in the deepest tangles of the wonderfully fertile vegetation skirting the river.

They search for wild flowers and their quest is well rewarded. The country extending twenty miles west of St. Louis and confined between the Meramec and Missouri rivers presents a more varied growth of flora than any district of similar area in the world. The valley of the Meramec is a Shaw's Garden in the rough.

SUNDAY OUTING PLACES CLOSE AT HAND.

Meramec Highlands, 15 miles west of St. Louis. One hour's ride on Suburban electric cars, or by way of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad.

Creve Coeur Lake, 18 miles northwest of St. Louis. One hour and a half's ride on electric line, or by way of Missouri Pacific Railroad.

James Spring, at headwaters of the Meramec River, 110 miles from St. Louis. It may be reached by taking the St. Louis and San Francisco to St. James, Mo., and traveling overland to the Springs, a distance of five miles.

Spanish Lake, 15 miles northeast on the Burlington.

Montesano Springs, 18 miles south of St. Louis. It may be reached by boat or by way of the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad.

Piasa Bluffs, 25 miles northeast of St. Louis, on the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad.

Horine, 35 miles south of St. Louis, on the St. Louis and Iron Mountain R. R.

G. A. HARKER.